

## Vampire boyfriends: I like my men undead

Opinion by Lily Weindel

In the tenth grade, I went on a date with a boy who refused to share his Sonic tater-tots with me. I not only categorize that as the worst date I have ever been on, but also as an embarrassingly direct example that chivalry is very, very dead and has no reasonable means of resurrection.

I have gone on a plethora of awkward first dates and been an emotional support dog to boys who didn't deserve it. I don't have high expectations for teenage boys. My dating pool may seem slim to critics of my current relationship endeavors, but they haven't considered the option that I am currently pursuing: vampires.

Yes! A vampire boyfriend, an undead, immortal, hunk of a man

that's ready to respect me as an empowered woman and won't barge into my house without invitation! And if things ever get bad, I know that a quick whiff of Olive Garden garlic bread will end all of my problems in a jiffy. You may think that going to the supernatural for an addition to my dating pool is a bit extreme for a girl that just wants a hubby, but you have failed to recognize the endless benefits that come from having a vampire boo thang at my disposal.

Literally, Lily



Not only will I be able to steal his vintage sweaters from his past thousands of years of existence, I get to rediscover the joys of sunblock! Plus, he's got a Transylvanian accent! Vampires are known for being super hot, also, so why wouldn't I go for it?

The benefits of this type of man outweigh the cons of him accidentally turning me into a vampire by biting me and the fact that I'm a mere mortal and I will die before him and he will live forever after mourning his super cool and cute human girlfriend. I mean, he'll be faithful, we can go on fun night time dates (unlike a werewolf who would cause a lot

of problems during full moons) and he probably has big muscles. I mean, I won't really be able to pursue a marriage with him in a Catholic Church because his presence in a church is enough to kill him with the abundance of holy water. But let's face it: most boys these days would probably shrivel up in a church too!

Boys these days focus on the trivial aspects of a girl: her looks, her personality, her goals and aspirations, childhood stories and worst of all, even having a future with her. Vampires care about the deep stuff such as my blood type and my knowledge of Vlad the Impaler. So if my winter formal date this year seems a bit out of the ordinary, just know that our relationship is as real as it gets.

## Network compels students to fight for civic engagement

In a world where one vote could change the course of history, one could say every vote matters. Civic engagement can be defined as volunteering or voting for the greater good of your country. Making sure that we are all well informed on politics allows for more educated voting in the United States. According to the Census Bureau's survey in 2018, the average voting range for people ages 18-24 was roughly 30 percent. The fact that less than half of the young population votes is dismal.

Most Marian students who are eligible to vote would not have been able to vote until the 19th Amendment was passed in 1920. For students of color, the date was pushed back to 1964 when the Voting Rights Act was passed. We all have a responsibility to vote, not only for ourselves, but for the millions of women before us who couldn't.

The concept of civic engagement should be of utmost importance now more than ever, because our civil liberties are constantly being curbed in the name of obedience. We, as citizens, should want to participate in political activities that further

staff editorial

the advancement of our country. We need to be more aware of what is going on.

This means going to local protests, city halls, and other government meetings. Social movements formed the way we see our country. There have been so many different social movements since our parents' and grandparents' adolescence.

This isn't the America our parents grew up in.

We are allowed to choose our own political routes. We don't have to follow in the po-

litical footsteps of our parents. Our world is becoming more and more accepting towards different political views. By doing things such as voting, volunteering at your mayor's office and more, we can make our country a better place to live. We should study the people we want representing our country.

We shouldn't want to live in a country where people feel like voting is a chore, we should feel excited to be able to have a say in the government. Politics, however, isn't the only way to practice civic engagement. Things as simple as figuring out who your local government officers are, organizing events to motivate your neighborhood and volunteering at your local homeless shelter are all examples of civic engagement.

Examples of civic engagement at Marian are the tampon drive, Donuts for Diversity, Life

Chain and so much more. Even joining a club is civic engagement. We can start improving our country by starting at Marian. The more girls who care about bettering our society, the better it will become.

Many young eligible voters don't even know how to register. It's as easy as going to the DMV, or doing it by mail or doing it online.

People should make sure to register within a month of their 18th birthday, as the primaries/caucuses are within months reach.

The end of our national anthem summarizes the attitude we should have with civic engagement, "the land of the free, and the home of the brave". If we are more brave and push for more civic engagement, than we're actively making our country more free. All it takes is to get informed, educated and involved.

## Should college athletes be paid?

Dianna Sledge



Cece West '21

I think they should not, because they already probably go to school for free.



Isabella Raczynski '23

College athletes should get paid because they put in a lot of time and effort, and they should get a reward for what they do.



Emily Lamilla '20

No, because they probably are already getting free tuition and it's not a career, so they shouldn't be getting paid.



Claire Koch '22

I think they should get paid if other people are using their name to profit from merchandise, but otherwise their scholarships should act like their payments.

## Memory care facilities: for patients or for profit?

Opinion by Maggie Mantini

In 2012, Margaret Billman, my nana, was diagnosed with Alzheimer's, an irreversible brain disorder that slowly destroys memory. Since then, my family and I have watched her aura slowly undo; forgetting who she was and where she came from a little bit more every day.

Some days we respond to the same question 30 times: where has Chuck (her husband) gone? He had a massive heart attack on their front lawn while blowing the leaves four years ago. Nana re-lives the discovery of her husband's death nearly every day; each time feeling just as new and painful as the last.

Some days she refers to me as a worker in her assisted living home; others I am committing identity theft when I say I am her granddaughter. I've learned to never take it personally.

My love for my Nana or involvement in her life will never be wavered by the impact this cruel disease has had on her remembrance of me. And without question, I can say the same for the remainder of my family. Even if she can't remember, we do.

Before Alzheimer's, Nana was often found with kitchen utensils in hand and apron on; she's most famous for her bundt cakes and large variety of British desserts. As young girls, my sister Anna and I spent hours in Nana's closet, where she hoarded all clothing and accessories imaginable. I developed my playful, lively character in that closet. Nana embraced my artistry

and stimulated my creative side by letting me push the boundaries of fashion.

Nana never missed a dance recital or a birthday; she always made me feel like I was worth celebrating. She carried herself elegantly, like she could accomplish whatever she pleases. She radiated love and harmony, like some sort of angel. She was gentle, just as my mom is.

In the process of losing her memory, my nana has managed to keep her smile. I can still make her laugh and dance with me in the kitchen after family dinner. Her love will never fully depart from my family and I, because it lives in our hearts.

At the quick rate that Nana's disease has progressed, her time for memory care is now.

Before choosing a home for Nana, my mother had to quickly do her research and figure out the complexity of how to emotionally, physically and financially care for my nana; this includes things such as meeting with an Elder Law Attorney and creating an estate that includes a five year spin down plan: at the end of five years Nana would run out of money.

Once this five-year plan is over, Medicaid would assist in the financial support of my nana. However, the elderly care facility in which my grandmother presides is deeply flawed and is costing her the care she needs at this stage of her disease.

When my mother initially moved Nana into her facility, she was in the assisted living program, which is a place where

most patients are relatively independent in their daily living.

The next step in the plan for memory loss patients is memory care: a confined space where the patient is entirely dependent on others in doing things such as using the restroom and getting dressed.

It was recently established that Nana's disease has progressed to the level of memory care. Aides, caretakers, nurses and my family were all in agreement on taking this next step, until my mother discovered financial dishonesty within the facility's administration.

Just in the last month, the head of administration and its members changed. When my mom confronted them with the idea of Nana being moved to memory care, their promise of Medicaid had been neglected. When choosing this home, Medicaid served as the main promise made to my mom which she confirmed time and time again.

And based on the original financial plan, Nana would only have enough money to survive without Medicaid for one more year before she is kicked out of memory care.

By conversing with employees who have fled the facility out of disgust, we

have come to find out that this same situation has affected seven other families. As a result, my nana is being held back from the proper level of care she needs.

My mom is searching for another facility that offers Medicaid or a fair financial situation as we speak. Thus, it will be another unhealthy change of environment for an individual who is already unaware of where she is. Consistency is so important for Nana as she will become fearful of her surroundings very quickly if they are repeatedly changing.

After continuous discussion with this program's new administration, my family has yet to receive any sense of urgency towards Nana's future plans. Their overall response is unsympathetic and lacking in will to correct the dysfunction in their system.

So my question is: who is benefiting from this arbitrary change in policy? By not accepting Medicaid within their memory care program, this facility is greatly financially benefiting, while my family has to entirely re-establish a game plan for the remainder of Nana's life. We are incredibly aggravated, but beyond all, we are disappointed in the lack

of care within the memory care system. These facilities should not let their desire for profit hamper the well-being of their patients.



Lunch Date • Maggie Mantini '20 and Nana enjoy lunch. Photo courtesy of Ruthanne Mantini.